

25X1

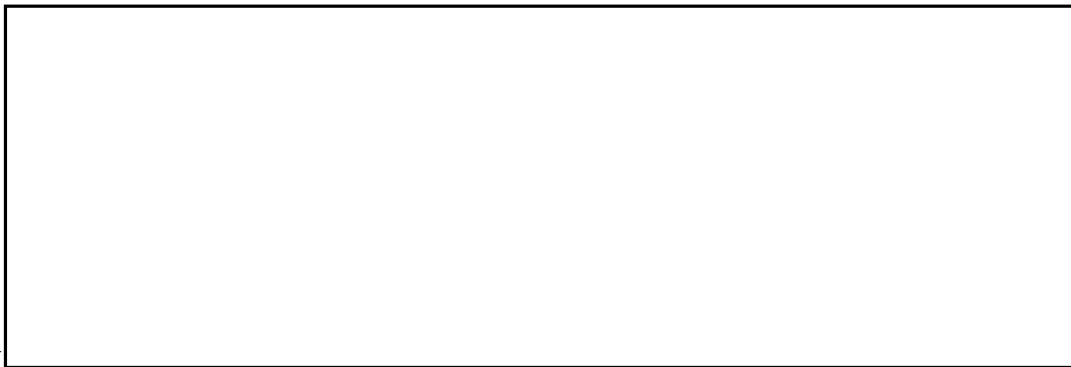
Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6

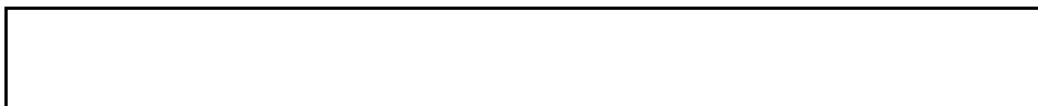
25X1

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6

25X1



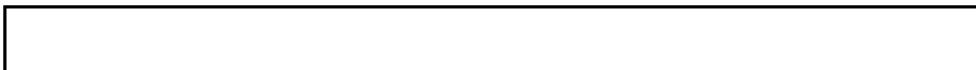
CONTENTS



25X1

British Liberals Renew Efforts on
Electoral Reform 3

25X6



Canada Considering Withdrawal of Its
NATO Ground Forces in Europe 6

DOS review(s) completed.

May 12, 1975

-i-

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6

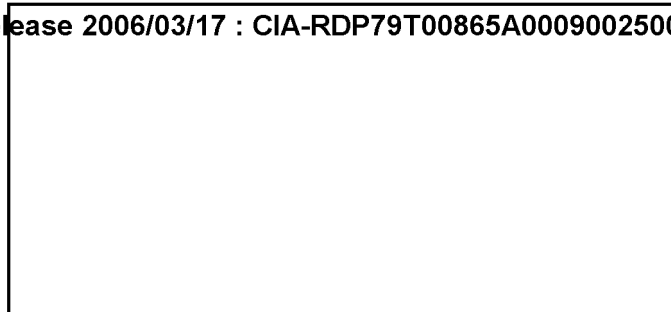
25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6



25X1

British Liberals Renew Efforts on
Electoral Reform

Members of Britain's third party--the Liberals--are making a fresh effort to gain support for proportional representation in the House of Commons. They are urging industrialists and businessmen in the Conservative party to make their contributions to the party contingent on the inclusion of electoral reform in the Tories' platform for the next general election.

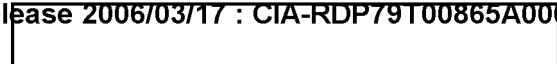
The Liberals' main argument is that the Labor government has been able to push through nationalization and other socialist programs even though it won less than 40 percent of the popular vote last year. The Conservatives are alarmed by these developments and are said to be listening attentively as the Liberals plead their case.

The Liberals have long favored proportional representation as a way to translate their substantial votes into parliamentary seats. In the October election they won 18 percent of the total vote but only two percent of the seats in Commons. Adoption of proportional representation could also mean:

- the virtual impossibility of a socialist government;
- the possible breakup of the Labor party;
- the probable formation of a coalition government.

The Labor party, which has the most to lose, would oppose electoral reform, as would many members of parliament who would fear the loss of their seats.

May 12, 1975



25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6

The US Embassy, however, reports that many Tories are swayed by the Liberals' argument. They remember that before the last election Industry Secretary Benn, a leading leftwinger in the Labor party, predicted that the non-socialist vote would be split between the Liberals and the Tories, allowing Labor to slide in.

If the government remains unwilling to come to grips with the country's economic problems, especially excessive wage demands, and the investment climate continues to be poor, the Tories may indeed opt to push for an overhaul of the electoral system.

25X1

May 12, 1975

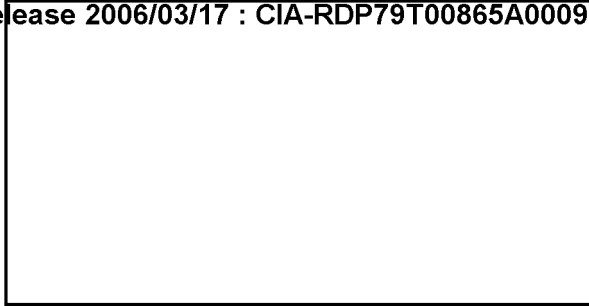
Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6

25X1

25X6

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6



25X1

Canada Considering Withdrawal of Its
NATO Ground Forces in Europe

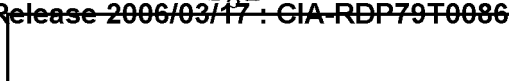
The Canadian government, as part of its current defense review, is considering a plan to withdraw its NATO-committed ground forces in Europe and to limit its NATO commitment to modernized air and sea elements.

A press report on May 8 said the plan, drawn up by the Defense Ministry for cabinet consideration, calls for withdrawal of Canada's 2,800-man battle group from Europe, replacement of its European based CF-104 fighter-bombers with newer F-15s, and purchase of a fleet of new light patrol vessels to protect Canada's Atlantic sea route.

On May 9, Prime Minister Trudeau was questioned in the House of Commons about the press story, but he avoided giving a direct reply. On the same day, the ambassadors of the NATO countries queried External Affairs Minister MacEachen who reassured them that neither the Canadian government nor the public questioned the importance of NATO. Like the Prime Minister, he did not indicate whether elimination of the ground force was under consideration.

In response to US embassy inquiries, a Canadian Defense Ministry official has confirmed that the withdrawal of the ground forces is under consideration at the departmental level. He indicated that recommendations would not be made to the cabinet before the end of June.

May 12, 1975



A Canadian official at NATO headquarters said that his Defense Minister and Chief of Staff would discuss Ottawa's defense review at meetings of NATO defense ministers and chiefs of staff on May 22 and 23.

The Canadian plan would be in line with earlier reports that the defense review would emphasize modernization of equipment even at the expense of some reduction in personnel. A reduction of Ottawa's UN peacekeeping contingents had been considered the most likely targets for reduction.

The US embassy in Ottawa believes it is unlikely that Canada would risk the appearance of reducing its NATO commitment at the same time that it is pursuing a policy of strengthening ties with Western Europe and seeking a "contractual link" with the EC.

A decision by Ottawa to withdraw its ground force contingent could have some far-reaching effects in NATO. Coming after earlier decisions by the UK, Italy, and the Netherlands to reduce some forces, and Greece's withdrawal from NATO's integrated military command, the withdrawal of even the small Canadian contingent could be viewed as another step in the gradual decline of the Alliance.

The NATO allies could argue that Canada, rather than making unilateral withdrawals, should seek to make reductions in the context of a possible force reduction agreement now being negotiated in Vienna.

25X1

May 12, 1975

25X1

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A000900250001-6